

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-38 are pending, but claims 2-4, 13, 15-18, 22-29, 31-33, 37 and 38 are withdrawn from consideration due to species election requirements.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-12, 14, 19-21, 30 and 34-36 are rejected.

At section 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejects the drawings because they do not show the two boundaries are coated surfaces as claimed in claims 12 and 21. Although a coated surface is only a type of surface and not a feature different from the drawings, applicant has provisionally cancelled claims 12 and 21 in order to avoid abandonment of the application as stated by the Examiner.

At section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 1, 5, 10-12, 14 19-21, 30 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kenmochi* (U.S. Patent No. 5,128,842). The Examiner states *Kenmochi* discloses a light conduit having a light guiding section 1 and a plurality of light escape elements 2 located near key locations to allow portions of the received light to escape from the light guiding section for illuminating the key buttons. In *Kenmochi*, the light escape element has a slope surface to reflect light upward to illuminate the keys located on the upper surface of the light guiding section 1.

Applicant has cancelled claims 12 and 21 and amended claims 1, 14 and 30 to include the limitations that the light guiding section has a plurality of side surfaces joining the two boundaries within the light guiding section for allowing the received light to propagate between the boundaries and side surfaces via reflection, and that the light escape elements have a plurality of side facets, at least some of which reflect other portions of the received light along with one or more of side surfaces within the light guiding section for allowing the other portion of the received light to propagate between the boundaries of the light guiding section.

The side surfaces (92) join the two boundaries (62, 64 in Figure 4) within the light guiding section (50) as shown in Figure 3. These side surfaces are reflection surfaces of

apertures (90), as described on page 7, lines 1-4, in the specification. The received light (102) also reflects off the side surfaces as shown in Figure 3. The side facets (84) are shown in Figure 6. The received light (102) also reflects off the side facets along with the side surfaces within the light guiding section as shown in Figure 6. No new matter has been introduced.

Kenmochi does not disclose or even suggest that a plurality of side surfaces within the light guiding section are used for reflection along with the side facets and the boudaries, allowing the received light to propagate in the light guiding section.

It is respectfully submitted that, for the above reasons, claims 1, 14 and 30, as amended, are distinguishable over the cited *Kenmochi* reference.

As for claims 5, 10-11, 19-20 and 34-36, they are dependent from claim and recite features not recited in claims 1, 14 and 30. For reasons regarding claims 1, 14 and 30 above, claims 5-11, 19-20 and 34-36 are also distinguishable over the cited *Kenmochi* reference.

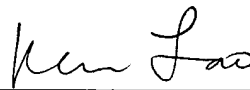
At section 6, the Examiner rejects claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kenmochi*, in view of *Parker et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,367,940, hereafter referred to as *Parker*). The Examiner cites *Parker* for disclosing a laser diode, optical fiber and incandescent lamp.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 6-9 are dependent from claim and recite features not recited in claims 1, 14 and 30. For reasons regarding claims 1, 14 and 30 above, claims 6-9 are also distinguishable over the cited *Kenmochi* and *Parker* references.

CONCLUSION

As amended, claims 1, 5-11, 14, 19-20, 30 and 34-36 are distinguishable over the cited references. Early allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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